

Date: Sun, 24 Jun 2007 18:44:46 +1000 [03:44:46 AM CDT]
From: Bruce Mitchell <brucemitchell@pubdata.com.au> Australia
To: "Greg E. Nelson" <gnelson@inetnebr.com>, "Craig, John C" <jccraig@gmail.com>
Reply-To: brucemitchell@pubdata.com.au
Subject: World Refugee Day in Briz

Gentlepersons,

It's Sunday evening and I'm hungry, having missed lunch altogether today. Too busy to eat? Me? Yes, it can happen. Thankfully, very rarely.

I think WRD was some time last week, but anyway today was the day it was celebrated in Briz.



Rosie and I volunteered to help out for a couple of hours, and though the morning had been cold and cloudy on Bribie, it was calm, sunny and warm when we hot Briz.

Tess was pretty busy too, having offered to take all six of her Sudanese home tutoring students for the day. She'll sleep well tonight, for sure.



As you can see in the photo, Mary (the youngest) didn't even last until nightfall.

Jim Mitchell [Tessa's SO] and I were allocated the job as linesmen and scorers at the big soccer tournament that was the main attraction. It was pretty cruisy and we got to see some cool soccer players in action. African style soccer is much more into winning by playing the ball and not wheedling decisions out of the ref using dives and fake injuries like many of the European players. These guys just went for the ball and went hard. It was great to watch such skills and, though the games were played very hard and tough, such a happy and friendly atmosphere as well. Jim and I worked at the Sudan-v-Karen and Sudan- v-Somalia games. (The teams were pick-up sides from the various local national refugee support groups, not the official teams for each country - not that the Karens actually have a country, which is why they are refugees, but that's another story.)

For those not playing or watching soccer (a couple of thousand other people) there were heaps of free rides and activities. Tessa's best friend Helen was painting faces by the dozen, while Rosie worked at a stall selling yummy sweets made by various mothers' groups.

All the food was pretty well sold out by lunchtime, given the massive increase in the number of people attending over previous years. It was all organised by the home tutor group that Tess works with, and involved over a hundred volunteers, half a dozen police plus fire and first aid people. Most of it was funded by the city council, which is no surprise because that's where Helen used to work, and while in charge of its refugee support services she set up the means that allowed a day like this to be funded.



You can see from one of the pix attached that the police had an even slacker time than Jim and me: one had gone home for his drum so he could join with a Kenyan group that was ripping through some heavy rhythms. Not many Afghanis were there, nor many Iraqis or Iranians either. Things change, and they are now more or less settled and self-supporting, so their absence is a sign that things are going well for them.

On the way home Rosie and I visited Joan and Trevor Evans, who live directly across the road from where Ann and I and the kids lived during the first year we were in Briz. We have long been official members of Joan's highly extended family, a great bunch of Irish-derived people who take enjoying their relatives very seriously. Joan and Trev built a new house on the block beside their old one and moved in last week, so we had a guided tour and some very late lunch.

Two couples inspected the apartment over the weekend. The first pair loved spent half an hour telling the agent they loved everything about it. When he suggested they might like to put a deposit on it they then said that they couldn't possibly buy it because there were too many steps

to get into it. Sigh. Today's pair were apparently looking for an investment property and are "interested". We live in hope.

Rosie says "hi" to both of you. She's a snailmailer, not an emailer, and a snailmail is on the way to Linda. BTW, she said to mention that she didn't know the Bartons at Dandenong.

The smell of roasting chicken is filling the air right now so it looks like I'd better consider removing it from the oven. Charcoal lying all around is a very bad look when possibly buyers come and inspect the place.

Enjoy the remainder of your respective weekends...

Bruce

2	WRD07-play.jpg	[image/jpeg]	60.35 KB	Download	WRD07-play.jpg
3	WRD07-Tess+Mary.jpg	[image/jpeg]	65.98 KB	Download	WRD07-Tess+Mary.jpg
4	WRD07-people.jpg	[image/jpeg]	67.68 KB	Download	WRD07-people.jpg

(Mitchell070624)